

LEE INSTRUCTED TO PROTECT AMERICANS.

New Cuban Consul General Has an Interview with Secretary Olney.

Will Use All His Powers to Prevent Immediate Trial of Barnett and Leavitt.

Secretary of State Wants the Competitor Prisoners' Cases Combined into One.

TO AVOID AN APPEAL TO SPAIN.

Our Government Not Willing to Make Another Request—The New Official to Leave for Havana Next Week.

By Julius Chambers.

Washington, May 14.—General Fitzhugh Lee spent more than an hour to-day with Secretary Olney examining into the status of the Americans of the Competitor expedition now held in prison in Havana. The Secretary specially dwelt upon the necessity of using every power of his office to prevent the trial of Barnett and Leavitt, the men last captured, in advance of the determination of the case of the three Americans now under sentence of death.

The object of the Secretary is to have the entire question of the rights of the Americans who were with the Competitor combined in a single case. He is anxious to avoid having to make another request of the Spanish Government of precisely the same nature as the one recently preferred and complied with.

Consul-General Williams has already entered a vigorous protest against any sort of trial of Barnett and Leavitt until the question at issue with regard to the sentenced men shall have been settled.

General Lee returned to his home in Virginia to-night. He said he would leave for Havana next week.

The programme for the summer practice of the Naval Militia of the different States, which was given out at the Navy Department to-day, clearly indicates that the Administration is preparing to make the best possible use of the entire naval force. The line of instruction for the Naval Militia of New York and two neighboring States is of itself very significant.

The Naval Division of New York will form a joint camp with similar organizations of Connecticut and Rhode Island, at Orient Point, L. I. Several war ships will be available for the use and instruction of this force of Naval Militia. A torpedo boat will also be a feature of the squadron. The line of instruction will be in recognizances and fixing signal stations. Every point along that shore will be explored with the purpose of ascertaining the best location for sighting a hostile fleet, also for determining the most available points for exchanging signals in the event of war. The subject of providing for the prompt response of the Naval Militia in condition to render immediate service will also be fully considered.

ULTIMATUM TO BRITAIN.

Kruger Declares the Reformers' Sentences Will Stand Until Rhodes Quits Africa.

Berlin, May 14.—The *Nachrichten* of London correspondent telegraphs that President Kruger has called to Mr. Chamberlain, the British Colonial Secretary, saying that the sentences of the members of the Reform Committee will be neither cancelled nor commuted until Cecil Rhodes leaves Africa.

WALCOTT QUITS THE RACE

Does Not Want to Be a Delegate—His Friends Are Trying to Head Off a Vote of Censure.

Pueblo, Col., May 14.—The Republican State Convention was called to order this afternoon by Chairman Herbert. John Grass, of Trinidad, was selected temporary chairman and after a credentials committee was appointed a recess was taken.

The defeated minority of the Arapahoe County (Denver) Convention appeared before this committee to appeal for representation in certain districts. Arguments were made on both sides. It was openly stated that should the convention decide to unseat any of the delegates by favoring the minority appeal, the entire Arapahoe delegation will withdraw from the convention.

A telegram from Senator Walcott was read announcing his desire to withdraw from the contest for a seat in the National Convention at St. Louis as the delegate from Colorado in the interest of harmony and the cause of bimetalism. The friends of Walcott are not confining their efforts to preventing a vote of censure. It is not believed that this will be done, neither will the delegates be instructed to bolt.

AUSTIN CORBIN PRISONER

Blowing of Locomotive Whistles Causes His Arrest for Maintaining a Nuisance.

Austin Corbin had the novel experience of appearing as a prisoner in a police court yesterday morning. Mr. Corbin is president of the Long Island Railroad Company, whose engines have disturbed the slumbers and ruffled the temper of Owen Matthews, who lives in Parkville, near the Prospect Park and Coney Island branch of the Long Island system. He charged Mr. Corbin with maintaining a nuisance.

Justice Steers heard the case in the Grant Street Police Court, Flatbush. A. A. Gardner, for Mr. Corbin, asked that the complaint be dismissed, saying no crime had been set forth, and that a civil action was Mr. Matthews' remedy. This motion Justice Steers denied.

The Justice said A. A. Moore, counsel for the Health Department, had made affidavit that the blowing of the whistles was a nuisance. He adjourned the hearing until next Tuesday.



THE BLOODY TRAIL OF THE SPANISH TROOPS.

(Sketched by a Journal artist on the spot.)

FROM THE LAND OF DESPAIR WHERE A BUTCHER IS KING.

Continued from First Page.

soldier who sought me out voluntarily. He expressed in unlimited terms his indignation at being placed upon the plane of a common murderer, and confided to me the information that himself and a number of his comrades had planned to desert from the army and join the rebel ranks at the first opportunity.

Bloody Melquizo's Crimes.

Notwithstanding the publication of accounts of his massacres in newspapers all over the world, Colonel Melquizo, with the connivance and upon the order of General Weyler, continues the unwarranted slaughter of plantation laborers in the province of Havana. One week prior to my leaving Cuba I sent the artist of the Journal to follow Colonel Melquizo's column. The scenes he witnessed he depicted with his pencil, and the sketches are reproduced in this issue of the Journal. The artist came across Melquizo's column in the town of Jiglabo, a small settlement a few miles from Campo Florido, where Melquizo perpetrated outrages that shocked the world three weeks ago. Melquizo had lately arrived from Campo Florido and was about to start next morning on his return march to Minas. Jiglabo was in a state of terror. The soldiers had taken possession of the town. They were occupying all the houses, in many instances having turned the rightful occupants into the open air. There was not an ounce of food in Jiglabo that had not been confiscated by Melquizo's men. Every food animal and fowl had been killed. The people were dependent upon the charity of the soldiers for a morsel to eat, and it was very scant charity Melquizo permitted them to dole out. The women were in great terror. Many of them had fled from the settlement. The conduct of the soldiers toward the women who remained was simply infamous.

The Weyler of Ninety-six.

The men of Jiglabo appealed to Melquizo for protection for the women. His reply was that no loyal Spanish woman would refuse a Spanish soldier anything, and he presumed the women of Jiglabo were loyal Spanish subjects.

Two soldiers entered the hut where the women lived and said things that no true woman would listen to. Finally they attacked her. She secured a knife and defended herself as best she could, but at length she was compelled to run from the house. The men followed her into the field, and seeing she must inevitably become their victim, she adopted the only alternative open to her. She drove her knife into her breast, and when her persecutors arrived at the spot where she fell they found a dying woman. Her name was Maria Garmunza. The next day her husband left Jiglabo en route to join the nearest party of insurgents. That is an instance of the manner in which Weyler's reign is making enemies for Spain. The Journal artist was arrested by Melquizo's orders and taken before him. He was asked what he was doing in Jiglabo. For answer he exhibited a salvo conducto that had been issued to me by one of General Ochoando's orderlies when I paid a visit to another part of the island, several weeks prior to the artist's trip.

It served as a passport for the artist. Melquizo asked him where he intended going, and received the reply that San Miguel was the artist's objective point. The Colonel read him a lecture on the danger of journeying over the country in such troublesome times, and gave him his liberty.

Next morning the Spanish column moved out of town in the direction of Minas. Melquizo conveniently forgot to pay the people for the food he had taken. He draws from the treasury twenty-eight cents a day for the maintenance of each man in his command, and with the money he is supposed to pay the peasants for the food he takes. As he takes everything and pays nothing, it may readily be seen that his personal fortune is not suffering from the continuation of the war.

Within an hour of the departure of the soldiers the Journal artist also left. He started in the direction of San Miguel to deceive the people of Jiglabo, but, having left the town far behind him, made a

detour and came out on the road to Minas, a couple of miles to the rear of the soldiers. Before coming in sight of the column the artist found the bodies of two negroes in the road. Their bodies were pierced by a number of bullets, and their hands were tied in front. Across the neck of one was a ghastly machete cut. A plantation house was close by. Not a living person could be found in the vicinity, but in the ransacked rooms and empty stables there was found ample evidence of the late visit of the troops. In the official report of Melquizo for that day, April 27, I found he claimed to have killed two rebels in battle, and that on the Spanish side there had been no casualties. The Journal artist camped out in a cane field that night, not more than half a mile from where Melquizo's pickets patrolled. The column moved next morning, and the artist went after it, but he was compelled to move through the cane in order to avoid being seen by the troops, who were marching along the road.

Slaughter of Non-Combatants.

Of a sudden he saw the column halt, and was enabled to crawl close enough to observe that six men and a woman, the latter carrying a little child, had been stopped by the soldiers. There was a talk of probably ten minutes' duration. Then the peasants were placed between a double file of soldiers and taken to the rear. The column marched ahead, leaving the prisoners in the custody of twelve soldiers. The hands of the men were tied, but the woman's hands were free. No sooner had the last man of the column passed than the work of killing the men commenced. They were cut down with machetes and shot by the soldiers, who remained deaf to their pleas for mercy. Not one of the six men remained alive. One of the soldiers attempted to embrace the woman. She took the child in her arms and ran screaming up the road. The soldier who had insulted her shot her in the back as she ran. Her child was not killed. The artist, after the murderers had disappeared, took the child and walked back two miles to the plantation of Cisneros Biblan, to whose protection the little one was confided. The murdered people were on their way to the Malpais plantation, near Granja, where they were employed.

In the official report of Melquizo for April 28, as given out by General Weyler's news bureau, I found that his troops had killed seven rebels in a skirmish near Granja, and that the Colonel highly praised his men for their gallant conduct.

April 29 passed without witnessing the spilling of any blood by the column, but on the following afternoon they grossly maltreated two women in the presence of the husband of one of them, and afterward killed all three. The man was shot to death while on his knees, one of the women was fastened to a tree and run through with a bayonet, and the other woman was murdered with a blow from a machete. The bodies were left in the road. The man was Pedro Cardenas, his wife was called Juila and the other was an unmarried woman by the name of Maria Luis. All were employed on the ranch of Apolo Camarones. Later in the day the artist came across two angels of mercy supporting a dying man on their laps and wetting his parched lips with water. They also were employed on the Camarones plantation. The man had been hacked with a machete and left for dead on the road. His mother and sister witnessed the butchery from afar and flew to his relief after the column had passed. Their gentle ministrations were in vain, for the poor fellow died while they were trying to succor him. The extract from the official report for that day shows that Melquizo's command killed four rebels in battle.

On May 2 the last butchery witnessed by the artist was committed. The column arrived close to the mines. A halt was made at a plantation, the administrator of which is Diego Maternalillas. The superintendent was absent, but the soldiers made inquiries of the three men in charge if they had seen any rebels lately. A negative answer was given. Melquizo issued an order to his soldiers. The peasants were seized, bound and carried into a field. Again they were asked

the question. The reply was the same. Rifles were aimed at the poor wretches and the question was repeated a third time. One of the captives ran at the soldiers, and, throwing himself upon them, knocked a Spaniard down. Instantly the rifles cracked and two prisoners rolled over, dead. The other, he who had attacked the soldiers, was murdered with machetes. Then four of the soldiers stuck their bayonets into his body and carried it in triumph several times around the field.

"In an action to-day our troops killed three incendiaries," was the way the official report of that affair read.

Rebels Are Masters.

The military situation in Cuba at the present time is a grave one, and, with all reports to the contrary, the insurgent forces are masters of the situation. The trocha from Martel, on the north, to the south coast, at the narrowest point of the island, is still preserved by Weyler at a tremendous cost. On this Trocha the strongest force ever detailed there by him was 38,000 men. He has had west of the trocha in different columns and under different commanders 60,000 troops, who had orders to encircle Maceo's force and push them to the trocha, where they would be slain like sheep in his opinion. Maceo has with him at the present time 15,000 well-disciplined, healthy, well-armed soldiers, who are equipped with the regulation Mauser rifles, an immense supply of cartridges, a surplus of blankets and sufficient food to carry them through a long campaign. Maceo's men are full of spirit and will follow their gallant commander in the most critical times, when death actually stares them in the face. The men under the insurgent leader are of fine physique, and you could not drive yellow fever into their bodies with a Gatling gun; while, on the other hand, the Spanish troops are sickly-looking, under-age men and very susceptible to yellow fever.

In addition to the splendid fighters Maceo has with him, he has a thorough knowledge of every foot of the ground in the Cuzco Hills, where he is operating at the present time. And all the soldiers that he has with him were born and bred in this vicinity, and consequently are fighting on their own ground, while the territory is entirely new to the Spanish commanders and they have to depend entirely on guides, whom they hire from the neighborhood, and who invariably are rebels, and instead of leading the Spanish to points where victory might be achieved lead them into ravines and valleys, where the rebels surround them and kill them by the hundreds.

Over 100,000 men have been placed in this section, with strict orders that Maceo must be driven to the trocha, but instead the Spaniards have lost thousands of men, while Maceo has not lost three hundred all told in the various engagements. The Spanish army on the trocha during the last three weeks, since the rainy season started, is in a state of despair, and I have received information from men who were with Maceo, and also from Spaniards who were on the southern coast of the island, that the soldiers are dying by the dozens with yellow fever, and in some places so rapidly that it has been impossible to bury the bodies, and the contamination of the ground and the waters near the place where the bodies lay exposed threaten death to every one of the foreigners who gets near them.

The fever has hit the trocha so hard, and carried off so many men from the ranks, that Weyler is unable to fill the regiments from troops at his command. He is therefore drafting all the young men in Havana who have been doing police duty in guarding the banks, hospitals, palace, and other Government buildings in the city and sending them out to the trocha to help fill up the ranks. Weyler has sustained the trocha at a tremendous expense, and against the advice of all his Spanish friends in Havana. He is, to use the slang phrase, "bull-headed," and his trocha scheme is an utter failure. He will be compelled to withdraw his troops at once and allow Maceo to come in, or they will be slaughtered by the fever. I have it from good authority in Havana that heavy drafts of troops from Spain have exhausted the fighting resources of that country, and that the Bishops have been called upon to organize volunteers. Weyler has now in Cuba 155,000 men, and the cost of the war since the invasion of Maceo, on February 24, 1895, to February 24, 1896, has been

\$140,000,000, and the loss to Spain through revenues over \$60,000,000. It is impossible for any intelligent man to see how Spain can carry on the war much longer, as Cuba is bonded for \$300,000,000 loans, and the other islands which the mother country controls are of little or no value.

What Gomez Is Doing.

General Maximo Gomez is one of the mysteries of the age, and at the present time his westward march with 20,000 stalwart and splendidly equipped soldiers, who received their arms from the steamship Bermuda on her first trip, is bothering all of the Spanish officers, who cannot understand what object he is trying to reach. At first it was thought that Gomez was endeavoring to reach Maceo, but when he found Maceo so well able to take care of himself it is thought he changed his tactics, and that ere long he will have captured the City of Havana. This is Gomez's second invasion of the western part of the island. When I left Cuba his army was at a town called Baracos, in the northern part of the Province of Matanzas, and I was informed that he gained all that section of the country between Puerto Principe and Baranco in an unbroken march of over 500 miles without a single battle or the loss of a single man.

Although the Spanish claim that all of the courts are in their hands, in the City of Havana they have a fair percentage, but as soon as you leave the cities the insurgents are in absolute control. The Spanish authorities seem afraid to issue any warrants for minor offences, while outside of the cities warrants issued by any member of the staff of Cisneros Betancourt, the president of the insurgents, are carried out to the letter.

The collection of taxes in the past has been done by the Government collectors going to the City of Havana and receiving their taxes from the owners of the plantations, but there is a law which compels the collectors to go to the different plantations if the owners so desire. The consequence is that in nine cases out of ten the collector refuses to go to the country, as he knows that he will be ordered to leave by the insurgents or that he will be dealt with accordingly. It will be readily seen from this state of affairs that the Government has no law, no courts, no income, and is not only at a tremendous expense, but is losing thousands of soldiers without the least compensation.

THE FATE OF THE JOURNAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Three Expelled from Cuba and Two Locked Up in Morro Castle.

Three of the special correspondents serving the Journal in Cuba have attained the distinction of expulsion from the island honorably decorated with the censure of the Spanish authorities. Mr. Solomon and Mr. Michelson are to be credited with terms of imprisonment in Morro Castle. There seems to have been too much haste in the case of Mr. Frederick W. Lawrence to confer that form of compliment upon him, but he was certainly equally meritorious in his labors, and has a right to consider himself neglected. The Journal may felicitate itself that there is the best evidence that those contributing chapters of current history of the island to its columns have been faithful. The most difficult work that can be performed in Havana is that of telling the truth about what is going on there and in the island at large. The reason for this those who have been students of the progressive development of the Cuban rebellion understand without explanation, but a few details may assist the general public in forming correct judgment.

The Spanish authorities in Cuba must be aware that the drift of events is and has been consecutively for more than a year strongly against them. They know they have lost the island, and the jealousies and personal disturbances among them indicate the timidity of their understanding of the facts and the anxieties that they have to avoid the rugged responsibilities. Each is interested in finding some one to blame for the failure. It is a vital thing for the Cabinet at Madrid to be held blameless for the approaching catastrophe. General Weyler must be able to blame some one. If no sufficient individual can be found, some influence that he regards sinister must serve as a substitute, and perhaps the American newspapers and filibusters may serve his purpose. His policy in the first weeks of his administration was to make actual war and to press things vehemently, to avoid politics and politicians, put his feet upon sentimentalism, hurry the troops out of their comfortable cantonments, and the officers away from the cafes of Havana. He thought for a time he was making decided progress. "Let me show you," said he, pointing to a map of Cuba, "what a change there has been since I got here." "The enemy were in Pinar del Rio then,

and now they are in Matanzas. I am 'orienting' them, and shall speedily obtain great results." He promised with the utmost sincerity to protect the plantations in three provinces by the middle of March—two months ago. Since then those very provinces have been devastated by the torches and machetes of the rebels, and the reply of the Spaniards to those thus engaged in destroying the revenues of Spain is to burn the homesteads of the humble and kill their cattle, and to turn the people who do not obey the orders to go into the towns to accept starvation and famine, and to accept the terrible condition of affairs. It is a very terrible condition of affairs, and is made the more dreadful by the merciless policy of insisting upon drawing the dead line so that all Cubans shall declare themselves either for or against the Spaniards, and an attempted neutrality is thus made as capital an offense as taking up arms in rebellion. The result is the Spanish officers are angry for they are in a course of inevitable and consecutive failures.

The merits of the case are now before the nations, and the Spanish authorities may justly blame the newspaper men for making the record plain. It is not surprising the Spanish officers are angry for they are in a course of inevitable and consecutive failures. They should not hold themselves too much chargeable for this condition of affairs. The task they have undertaken is impossible. There are a million people fighting them in Cuba, and they cannot conquer a million people. It does not seem impossible that in their pride and infatuation the Spaniards should contemplate even an open rupture with the United States. Of course they would know that war with us must end their career completely in America. But they could have an ample excuse for their discomfiture. The press of the United States deserves well of the country for the measure of truth that it has told the world of the reduction of Cuba to a scene of blood and ashes.

MURAT HALSTEAD.

PRESIDENT PALMA'S CONTENT FOR WEYLER.

I think that the mere fact of the forcing out of the Journal correspondents furnishes the best proof that General Weyler is afraid to face the truth. Everything that Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Michelson reported to the Journal has been fully confirmed by the statements sent to this "delegation" by Generals Gomez, Maceo and Serafin Sanchez, and by our Government. It is an evident fact that most of the prisoners made by the Spanish and those reported killed in the field are only peaceable and defenseless Cubans living in the small towns and villages. It seems strange that General Weyler, having at his disposal so many thousands of troops, should remain in Havana and make war on newspaper correspondents, when, according to his own statement, it would be a comparatively easy task to capture General Maceo.

General Palma

SECRETARY GUERRA SPEAKS TO THE POINT.

The expulsion of the Journal correspondents by General Weyler is not surprising to me. It was to be expected, because the Journal has been telling the whole truth, which is naturally injurious to the Spanish rule in Cuba. General Weyler sits quietly and safely in his palace in Havana, editing the war news. He would not permit any other news to be sent from the seat of war but that manufactured by him to be published. The Journal correspondent would not adulterate the truth and insisted upon calling real news instead of that dictated by the Captain-General—hence the conflict. General Weyler wants to remain in Havana parading his human sentiments before the world, while he orders his lieutenants to kill non-combatants and report them as killed in force battles and also to slay women and children without mercy. The Journal brings all these butcheries to light.

Don Guerra

SHARP WORDS FROM TREASURER NAVARRO.

I believe General Weyler to be a dismal failure as a soldier, statesman and even as a politician. He certainly has not the courage to face the Cubans in the field and devotes his time to writing proclamations, murdering innocent people and expelling newspaper correspondents from the island. The Journal in more than one occasion has dared tell the world the true condition of the war in Cuba, and Weyler cannot stand the truth. He went to Cuba under false pretences, he misgoverns the country under the same false pretences, and he simply keeps on taking his share of the spoils and then gets angry whenever he is shown up. When a politician, especially one with the unsavory reputation he has, pretends to keep the American press in the dark, he makes a mistake. The Journal will be believed in the distant times when Weyler is once in Cuba was lost to Spain long ago, and it is only a matter of sending the butcher and his confederates out to sea.

Rafael Naranjo

SPAIN SAYS AMERICA DOESN'T DO HER DUTY.

Will File a Protest Against the Fitting Out of Filibusters.

Cabinet Claims That Cuban Expeditions Are Openly Fitted Out Here.

Preparations Being Made to Send Thousands More Troops to the Scene of War.

WILL GO TO CUBA IN SEPTEMBER.

Canovas Affirms That Weyler Has Not Asked for Reinforcements—Why Volunteers Do Not Fight on the Trocha.

By Don Manuel de Alhama.

Madrid, May 14.—The Cabinet Council to-night dealt, according to persistent and well-founded reports, with the protest from Spain to the United States on the subject of the frequency and facility with which filibustering expeditions are openly organized in the United States and leave for Cuba.

The official Epoca to-night publishes an article saying that the Spanish Government has been and is developing as much diplomatic activity as it is military activity regarding Cuba affairs, and that when the Red Book is published the public will be surprised and the conduct of the Government fully justified.

Senor Canovas declared to-night that General Weyler had not up to the present asked for more troops, nor had he shown any intention of asking for them; but it is well known that the War Office continues preparations for an expedition of 20,000 men to sail in September.

Discussing the objection of Havana volunteers to go out to defend the Trocha, Senor Canovas declared it was natural that these men, who were mostly merchants and fathers of families, did not relish the idea of leaving for the field, but these same men always fought as heroes in defence of their town.

They would now, however, go to the Trocha if ordered.

ALL BOSTON AT HIS FEET.

W. A. Coutant, Claiming to Be Mayor of Newburg, and Said to Be Insane, Had a Royal Time.

Boston, May 14.—W. A. Coutant, of Newburg, has been doing Boston in royal fashion. Coutant, who is, so a dispatch from Newburg sent in reply to anxious inquiries says to-day, insane on money matters, claimed to be Mayor of Newburg, and, curiously enough, none of those who have been entertaining him so lavishly thought to query Newburg about his standing until yesterday.

Mr. Coutant has had thousands of dollars spent on him. Mayor Quincy and others have dined him. President Lawrence, of the Senate, has had him by his side during one of the sessions, and Speaker Von Meyer, of the House, also honored him. Even Lieutenant Governor Brackett was impressed by the "notable" from Newburg.

One day shortly after his arrival he made a revelation that astounded his new-found friends. "I am worth a great deal of money," said Mr. Coutant, "and I had a girl; she was a good girl, and she really wanted to marry me. Poor thing, she died and left me her wealth. That's the \$1,500,000 I mentioned a minute ago. I brought on with me a check for \$250,000 which I intend to use in pushing a bill through your Legislature, and there's millions in it, my boys, there's millions in it for you and me. It's a railroad consolidation bill."

He did not cash the check, and several were asked for loans until the moment was ripe to break the check and push the bill. One evening last week Mayor Quincy, Joseph O'Neill, Assistant United States Treasurer; Congressman Cannon, of Illinois, and Private Secretary to the Mayor, Tom Mullen, made up a party that dined Mr. Coutant at the Parker House. He is stout and apparently thirty-two years of age. As to dress, he is modest, but the fit of his clothes is perfect.

Newburg, N. Y., May 14.—William A. Coutant is a fine appearing fellow. He was the bridegroom in the wedding at Poughkeepsie that was followed by his bride deserting him the next day in New York, after which he became, as alleged, violently insane.

He claimed to be worth fabulous sums of money made by speculation in Boston real estate, and induced his father to close his grocery store so he might keep him without work. A lawyer sued him for fees and seized fancy horses and equipment he had purchased from money borrowed of an aged aunt. It was only respect for his family that kept him out of jail. About a fortnight since he started for New England to purchase a first team of horses. Nothing has since been heard from him.

Benjamin B. Odell is the Mayor of Newburg. Daniel J. Coutant is the City Clerk. He is an uncle of the "Lord," a title by which William A. Coutant is generally known.

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